The Story of Rabiah al-Basriyyah and the Young Man

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Chapter 1: A Lesson in Gratitude and Endurance

An Encounter on the Roadside: The Youth with the Bandage

Rabiah al-Basriyyah once stood quietly at a place when a young man happened to pass by. She noticed that he had a cloth tied around his head.

A Question of Concern:

Rabiah al-Basriyyah:

"My son, what has happened?"

Man:

"Mother, I have a headache. That is why I have tied this bandage around my head. I have never experienced this pain before."

A Timeless Rebuke: The Bandage of Complaint

Upon hearing his reply, Rabiah inquired further.

A Gentle Admonition:

Rabiah al-Basriyyah:

"My son, how old are you?"

Man:

"I am twenty years old."

When he revealed his age, she responded with a profound reminder.

Rabiah al-Basriyyah:

"My son, for twenty years your head never ached, yet you never once tied a bandage of gratitude. Now, at the first sign of pain, you have immediately fastened the bandage of complaint."

Reflections on Human Nature: A Pattern of Ingratitude

She concluded with a broader observation that encapsulates the condition of many souls. For years, one lives in comfort and ease, surrounded by divine blessings and peace, yet seldom expresses gratitude. The moment a minor difficulty arises, the human tongue swiftly turns to complaint.